

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surface lighting device comprising:
  - a light guide member having a side surface for light
  - 5 to enter, and a main surface for the light to exit;
  - a light source facing at least one side surface of
  - the light guide member;
  - a holder for holding the light guide member; and
  - a stopper near a light incident surface which is
  - 10 the side surface faced by the light source, for
  - preventing the light guide member from moving toward
  - the light source;
  - wherein the stopper is a separate member attached
  - to the holder.
  - 15
2. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
wherein the light source is linear.
3. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
20 wherein
  - the light source is L-shaped, facing two mutually
  - adjacent side surfaces of the light guide member,
  - the stopper preventing the light guide member from
  - moving toward the light source for prevention of the
  - 25 two mutually adjacent surfaces which are the light
  - incident surfaces from contacting the light source.
4. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,

wherein the light source is U-shaped.

5. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
wherein

5 the light source includes a first and a second light  
sources,

the stopper preventing the light guide member from  
moving toward the first light source and toward the  
second light source.

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6. The surface lighting device according to Claim 5,  
wherein at least one of the first and the second light  
sources is linear.

- 15 7. The surface lighting device according to Claim 5,  
wherein

at least one of the first and the second light  
sources is L-shaped, facing two mutually adjacent  
side surfaces of the light guide member,

20 the stopper preventing the light guide member from  
moving toward the L-shaped light source for  
prevention of the two mutually adjacent surfaces  
which are the light incident surfaces from contacting  
the L-shaped light source.

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8. The surface lighting device according to Claim 5,  
wherein at least one of the first and the second light  
sources is U-shaped.

9. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
wherein the stopper is made of a material having  
strength to enable the prevention of the light guide  
5 member from moving toward the light source at least to  
such an extent that the surface lighting device is  
improved in impact resistance by the stopper.
10. The surface lighting device according to Claim 9,  
10 wherein the stopper is made of a metal.
11. The surface lighting device according to Claim 10,  
wherein the stopper is made of a shape-memory alloy.
- 15 12. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
wherein the stopper includes a surface having a  
reflectance not smaller than 70%.
- 20 13. The surface lighting device according to Claim 12,  
wherein the stopper includes a surface having a  
reflectance not smaller than 80% and facing the light  
guide member.
- 25 14. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
wherein the stopper is attached to the holder closely  
to an end of the light incident surface, including  
a portion extending inward from a side of the light  
incident surface for contacting the light incident

surface at a time of preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source.

15. The surface lighting device according to Claim 14,  
5 wherein the stopper is provided near only one of two ends of the light incident surface.

16. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
10 wherein the stopper includes a portion for contacting the light incident surface at a time of preventing the light guide member from moving toward the light source, the portion including a through hole.

17. The surface lighting device according to Claim 1,  
15 wherein

the stopper includes an L-shaped portion having a first and a second sub-portions which are mutually perpendicular to each other, for two mutually adjacent side surfaces of the light guide member, both  
20 side surfaces serving as the light incident surfaces,

the first sub-portion extending inward from a side of one of the two side surfaces serving as the light incident surface, for contacting said one of the two side surfaces at a time of preventing the light guide  
25 member from moving in a direction that allows said one of the side surfaces to move toward the light source,

the second sub-portion extending inward from a side

of the other of the two side surfaces serving as the  
light incident surface, for contacting said other of  
the two side surfaces at a time of preventing the light  
guide member from moving in a direction that allows  
5 said other of the side surfaces to move toward the  
light source.

18. A liquid crystal display device including lighting  
means for illuminating a liquid crystal panel,  
10 wherein  
the lighting means is provided by the surface  
lighting device according to Claim 1.